REMARKS

Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has incorrectly interpreted the Abe et al. reference. In this regard, Applicant would first like to point out that the Abe et al. reference is directed to a method and apparatus capable of forming an image with desired shape at a corrected position on a recording medium having expansion and contraction properties. Boundary lines formed on the recording medium being conveyed are detected by sensors. Distortion of the recording medium is evaluated on the basis of the detected boundary lines. Image data is corrected in accordance with the results of the evaluation and of images formed in accordance with the corrected image data. In the above process, the image data within the respective areas surrounded by the boundary lines, is formed such that the image is printed at a corrected location even when the recording medium has distortion due to expansion/contraction. See abstract of the '822 reference. See also background of the invention lines 1-17 and the summary of the invention, column 4, lines 22-26. See also column 6, lines 51-64.

The invention of Abe et al. is directed to a method and apparatus whereby it becomes possible to evaluate distortions which can occur in recording medium having expansion/contraction properties such as cloth when the recording medium is conveyed and thus it becomes possible to form a high precision image at a corrected position on the recording medium in accordance with the image data depending on the distortion detected. The object of the Abe et al. reference is directed to determining the distortion. This is done by sensing these boundary lines. Thus, it is only after the sensing of the boundary lines is the distortion data corrected in the computer memory and then later applied.

The passages referred to by the Examiner are exemplary of the type of system. In particular, column 21, lines 55 to column 22, line 11, Applicant respectfully refers the Examiner to the following paragraph at column 22, lines 12-20. As can be seen then it is after the previously cited passage does the printing operation under the textile occur. Likewise, with respect to the cited reference by the Examiner at column 22, lines 40-48, Applicant specifically refers the Examiner to lines 45-48 which specifically states "the boundary lines printed in the first-time printing sequence are detected and the image data is corrected on

-2-

the basis of the detected boundary lines and then the corrected image data is printed." With respect to the cited passage at column 26, lines 18-34, Applicant refers the Examiner to column 26, lines 44 through column 27, line 2. As can be seen, data is obtained after detecting of the boundary lines 314 is analyzed and deviations from the boundaries are detected. This is so that when the actual printing process occurs, the actual printing in the correct area is provided as discussed later on in column 27. With regard to column 28, lines 45-49, Applicant refers the Examiner to column 28 lines 49-67 which sets forth that "the boundary lines 413 formed on the cloth are detected using the optical area sensor 3144 and the distortion of the cloth in the upside-down state is evaluated. The correction values 605-610 are then calculated from the distortion. In the following step S3704, the shape of the image area corresponding to the recording position in the area 412 defined by the detected rectangular tile-shaped boundary lines, in accordance with the correction values ... the second recording means 3125 forms an image on the surface of the cloth opposite to the surface on which the image has already been formed, in accordance with the image data stored in the memory area 1102".

In view of the foregoing it is respectfully submitted that the claims in their present form are in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
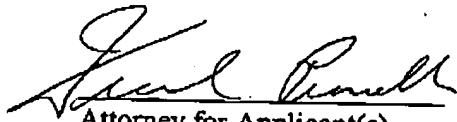
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Registration No. 27,370

Frank Pincelli/phw
Rochester, NY 14650
Telephone: 585-588-2728
Facsimile: 585-477-4646

-3-

PAGE 6/6 * RCVD AT 7/2/2004 8:19:34 AM [Eastern Daylight Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-1/1 * DNIS:8729306 * CSID:585 477 4646 * DURATION (mm-ss):02-14